

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles 03V-046 ① or ②
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report¹

On Feb. 4, 2003, The Charles Machine Works, Inc. [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. _____) exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared February 12, 2003

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): To Be Determined

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

The Charles Machine Works, Inc.
1959 West Fir Avenue, P.O. Box 66
Perry, OK 73077

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Richard Lambert

Telephone Number: 580-572-2480 Fax No.: 580-572-3525

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Richard Lambert

Product Safety Coordinator

Signed: 

¹Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assistance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

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OFFICE OF SAFETY
INVESTIGATION

1. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): T95 Model Years Involved 2002/2003 Model(s): (Same)

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____ TO BE DETERMINED

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

NOT APPLICABLE

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

TRAILERS HAVE HYDRAULIC BRAKES

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Bodystyle: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

TRAILER HAS HYDRAULIC BRAKE; BREAKAWAY BRAKES DO NOT WORK

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

TO BE DETERMINED

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
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SEE ATTACHED SHEET WITH POTENTIALLY DEFECTIVE DITCH WITCH

T9S TRAILERS

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:

UNKNOWN

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: UNKNOWN

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

SEE ATTACHED LIST

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance :

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

BREAKAWAY BRAKES DO NOT WORK

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

UNKNOWN

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

NO BRAKES IF TRAILER BECOMES DETACHED FROM TOW VEHICLE

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

CHECK BREAKAWAY BRAKE FUNCTION

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

REDNECK TRAILER SUPPLIES

1202 Pikes Peak Road

CHICKASHA, OK

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Gary Jones, Manager

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims. TO BE DETERMINED

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

REPLACE BRAKE ACTUATOR

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

TO BE DETERMINED

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

TO BE DETERMINED

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

TO BE DETERMINED

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

Potentially Defective Ditch Witch T9S Trailers

VIN	Date Completed
DSB122R8217W2028	4-24-02
DSB122R82217W2039	5-30-02
DSB122R83217W2051	6-14-02
DSB122R82217W2056	6-21-02
DSB122R84217W2057	6-26-02
DSB122R86217W2058	6-27-02
DSB122R88217W2059	7-23-02
DSB122R84217W2060	8-21-02
DSB122R86217W2061	7-30-02
DSB122R88217W2062	8-05-02
DSB122R8X217W2063	8-05-02
DSB122R81217W2064	8-21-02
DSB122R86217W2075	10-01-02
DSB122R8X217W2080	10-23-02
DSB122R81217W2081	11-15-02
DSB122R81317X2501	1-16-03
DSB122R83317X2502	1-28-03

PART 573 Defect Report #2 - Revised 2/24/03

On February 4, 2003 The Charles Machine Works, Inc. determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

The initial report was prepared on February 12, 2003. This revised report was prepared on February 24, 2003.

The manufacturer's identification code for this recall is 052-995.

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabrication manufacturer of the recalled vehicles.

The Charles Machine Works, Inc.
PO Box 68
1959 West Fir Street
Perry, OK 73077

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, which the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Telephone Number	Richard L. Lambert
Facsimile	Product Safety Coordinator
E mail	580-572-2480
	580-572-3525
	rlambert@ditchwitch.com

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report

Richard L. Lambert
Product Safety Coordinator

Signed



I. Identifying the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Ditch Witch

Model(s): \$7B

Model Years Involved: Not Applicable

Production Date: January 2002

VIN: 1DSB101JX217W0862

Vehicle Type: Trailer

Bodystyle: Not Applicable

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: VIN

Make(s): Ditch Witch

Mode{(a): T98

Model Years Involved: Not Applicable

Production Dates: See List

VIN: See List

<u>VIN</u>	<u>Date Manufactured</u>
1DSB122R8217W2028	4-24-02
1DSB122R2217W2039	5-30-02
1DSB122R3217W2051	6-14-02
1DSB122R2217W2056	6-21-02 (dealer's inventory)
1DSB122R4217W2057	6-28-02
1DSB122R6217W2058	6-27-02
1DSB122R8217W2059	7-23-02
1DSB122R4217W2060	8-21-02
1DSB122R6217W2061	7-30-02
1DSB122R8217W2062	8-05-02 (dealer's inventory)
1DSB122RX217W2063	8-05-02 (dealer's inventory)
1DSB122R1217W2064	8-21-02
1DSB122R3217W2065	10-01-02
1DSB122RX217W2060	10-23-02
1DSB122R1217W2081	11-15-02
1DSB122R1317X2501	1-18-03 (dealer's inventory, corrected)
1DSB122R3317X2502	1-28-03 (dealer's inventory, corrected)

Vehicle Type: Trailer

Bodystyle: Not Applicable

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall: VIN.

RECALL 03V046000

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents.

100% of those with hydraulic brakes

II. Identifying the Recalled Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
S7B	2002	1
T9S	2002 - 2003	17
Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:		18 Trailers

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: **unknown.**

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined -- in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the inclusive date of manufacture:

We are recalling all trailers of these two models equipped with hydraulic brakes.

III. Identifying the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should include the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate..

Brakes are not adjusted properly and/or the systems contain trapped air.

If this report is for a noncompliance, identify the applicable section of the standard:

Not applicable

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Inadequate brake system adjustment procedure.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

**Brakes may have reduced effectiveness and/or the breakaway
brakes may not work.**

Identify any warning which can (a) proceed or (b) occur.

**Brakes may have reduced effectiveness and/or the breakaway
brakes may not work.**

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Not Applicable

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Not Applicable

IV. Identify the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance
If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, other wise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

Reported Failures

- 2-4-03 Ditch Witch dealership reported that they were unable to get the hydraulic brakes on a trailer to work properly.
2-12-03 The Charles Machine Works suspected that the brake actuators did not work properly.
2-14-03 The Charles Machine Works determined that the problem was a result of trapped air and/or improper adjustment.

Accidents, Injuries, & Fatalities **None**

Decision to Recall the Trailers **February 12, 2003**

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

Not Applicable

V. Identify the Remedy

RECALL 03V048000

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

The Charles Machine Works will have Ditch Witch dealerships bleed the brake systems and adjust the brakes.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

VIN and correct brake operation

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

Brake system bleeding and adjustment procedure has been changed.

VI. Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

2-21-03	Notify Ditch Witch dealers of the recall
2-24-03	Notify customers by facsimile and phone of the recall
2-24-03	Mail letters to customers

VII. Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A DRAFT copy of the notification documents **SHOULD BE** submitted to this office by telefax (FAX: 202-368-7852) for review prior to mailing.

See attached draft letters

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.



Safety Notice

Recall Code 03V048000

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

To: (Specific Owner of Ditch Witch Trailer)

The Charles Machine Works, Inc., manufacturer of Ditch Witch trailers, has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety may exist in your trailer, Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) (Specific VIN).

Defect Description - The brakes on your trailer may not be properly adjusted and/or air may be trapped in the brake system.

Potential Hazard - The service brakes may not be effective and/or the emergency brakes may not stop the trailer if it becomes detached from the tow vehicle.

What You Should Do - Check the brakes on your trailer with the above VIN. Follow these steps:

- Move the emergency brake lever to the brake's second detent in the ON (forward) position
- Pull the trailer with the tow vehicle to see if brakes are effective. The trailer should be hard to move on dry concrete, but should not slide the trailer wheels.
- If the brakes are not effective, do not use your trailer. Contact your Ditch Witch dealership. They will come to your location and bleed air from the brake system and adjust the brakes.

What The Charles Machine Works, Inc. Will Do - This work will be performed free of charge by your nearest Ditch Witch dealership. Estimated repair time is 3 hours per trailer.

You may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 or call the toll free 1-888-327-4236 (Washington, D.C. area residents may call 1-202-366-0123). If you believe that The Charles Machine Works, Inc. or your Ditch Witch dealership has failed or is unable to remedy the defect or noncompliance without charge and within a reasonable time.

THE CHARLES MACHINE WORKS, INC.
P.O. BOX 66 • PERRY, OKLAHOMA 73077

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTIFICATION
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

 **Ditch Witch**
THE UNDERGROUND UTILITY
FRAMING